

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
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 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: December 29, 1967

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. T. N. Goble

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

Reference is made to memorandum W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan, 12/27/67, advising of statements made by District Attorney James C. Garrison at a press conference held in New Orleans on 12/26/67 and setting forth the facts as known to us concerning those statements.

One of the statements concerned Loran Hall of California who, according to Garrison, had inside knowledge of the assassination the day it happened. As was set forth in referenced memorandum, we interviewed Loran Eugene Hall in California in September, 1964, in connection with information furnished by one Mrs. Sylvia Odio. Mrs. Odio, a Cuban refugee, had told us shortly after the assassination that Leon Oswald and two other men visited her in September, 1963, concerning her father who was imprisoned in Cuba. Mrs. Odio claimed that Leon Oswald was Lee Harvey Oswald. Our investigation into her claim revealed she had a history of emotional instability and mental illness and a reputation for telling falsehoods. The investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's activities established that on the date Mrs. Odio claimed Oswald visited her he was in fact on a bus en route to Mexico. The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was not at Mrs. Odio's apartment in September, 1963.

During the course of our investigation of the assassination, we received information that Loran Eugene Hall had been in Dallas, Texas, in September or October, 1963, and reportedly was soliciting contributions from anti-Castro Cuban refugees. It was in this connection that we interviewed Hall. He told us he never met Lee Harvey Oswald. He said he possessed no knowledge regarding the assassination. He stated he and two companions were in Dallas, Texas, in September, 1963, contacting various Cuban refugees. He recalled meeting Sylvia Odio at that time and stated he was accompanied by Lawrence Howard and William Seymour when he met Mrs. Odio.

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SENT TO MR. TOLSON

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

Interviews of Howard and Seymour and other investigation failed to corroborate Hall's statements. Our inquiries revealed that Hall had a history of mental instability and a reputation for lying. Results of our inquiries in this matter were disseminated to the Warren Commission.

News media on 12/29/67 reported Garrison has now subpoenaed three men as material witnesses in his probe: Loran A. Hall of Kernville, California; Lawrence J. Howard, Jr., of Los Angeles; and Thomas Beckham of Omaha, Nebraska.

Information concerning Hall and Howard was furnished to the White House and Attorney General by communications dated 12/28/67.

Concerning the third man, Thomas Beckham, our files reveal that his name never came up during our investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. However, on 1/13/67 we received information that Garrison had located a witness, Thomas Beckham, who was associated with Oswald and assisted him in passing out leaflets. Bureau files contain a reference to a Thomas Edward Beckham of New Orleans who in 1962 was seeking funds for a religious group aiding Cubans. This man allegedly had a record with the New Orleans Police Department for being involved in such activities. In October, 1962, this man's mother reported that he was then a patient in the mental ward of a hospital in New Orleans.

The information that Thomas Beckham was one of Garrison's witnesses was furnished us by Jack S. Martin, the New Orleans private investigator who was one of the original instigators of Garrison's current probe. Martin himself is a mental case and in 1957 was a psychiatric patient in a New Orleans hospital.

ACTION:

We have already furnished the White House and Attorney General the information concerning Hall and Howard. By separate communication we are furnishing them the information regarding Beckham.